

HONORING VU QUANG NINH

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 20, 2013*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, I heard of the passing of my late friend, Mr. Vu Quang Ninh, founder of Little Saigon Radio and a media trailblazer in the Vietnamese American community. Mr. Ninh passed away peacefully in Orange County at age 82.

Mr. Ninh lived a very prosperous and productive life, dedicated to public service. His career spanned more than half a century in both Vietnam and the United States. Mr. Ninh grew up in turbulent times during the Vietnam War. He was called on by Prime Minister Ngo Dinh Diem of Vietnam to take charge of Armed Forces Radio right after his graduation from the Army Academy. Mr. Ninh later served as the head of the youth department in Central Vietnam and produced many radio programs, collaborating by the United States and the Republic of South Vietnam government.

After the fall of Vietnam, Mr. Ninh resettled in California but the dream of becoming a radio man never left him. In 1980, he established Radio Tieng Vong Que Huong (Echo of the Motherland), which lasted for 3 years. Mr. Ninh paved the way for the Vietnamese-Americans in the world of radio broadcast when he established Little Saigon Radio. He turned the station into a strong and constructive voice for the community. Today, my thoughts are with his family, friends and the Little Saigon Radio family. His loss will be remembered and felt by all those who were inspired by his legacy.

DARLENE TAPIA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 20, 2013*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Darlene Tapia for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Darlene Tapia is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Darlene Tapia is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Darlene Tapia for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RED CROSS MONTH

**HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 20, 2013*

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, since 1943, every President has declared March as "Red Cross Month." This year is no exception. As the Chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, I recently was able to visit the National Red Cross, along with the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee—Mr. PAYNE, Jr. from New Jersey, to learn about their operations and show our support. During the visit, we learned that each year the Red Cross responds to about 70,000 natural and man-made disasters, ranging from small incidents, like house fires, to large-scale disasters like Hurricane Sandy and the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. Additionally, the Red Cross, through numerous blood drives, provides approximately 40 percent of the Nation's blood supply.

The visit also provided us with the opportunity to tour the Digital Operations Center. The Digital Operations Center is the first social media-monitoring platform dedicated to humanitarian relief. The Digital Operations Center equips the Red Cross to better share safety and preparedness tips during natural disasters and aims to empower communities suffering during disasters to use social tools to seek help. After visiting the Digital Operations Center, I was very impressed with how the Red Cross has begun to leverage social media and uses smartphone apps to keep citizens informed before, during, and after disasters.

I am personally thankful for the Greater Indianapolis Red Cross chapter and its volunteers. This chapter has truly embraced the Red Cross ethos of turning "compassion into action." Just last year, volunteer Disaster Action Teams responded to more than 500 house fires and assisted over 700 families in recovering from emergencies and disasters. Additionally, more than 30 volunteers from East and Central Indiana were an integral part of the Red Cross' relief operations after deadly tornadoes struck Southern Indiana in March of last year. These examples highlight just a few of the capabilities a typical local Red Cross chapter can offer.

In the upcoming weeks, when you are back in your Congressional District, please take a moment to thank your local Red Cross for all the work they do. The Red Cross is vital to our Nation's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters, regardless of the size, and they deserve our appreciation.

**SHIPYARD LAYS KEEL OF THE JOHN WARNER SUBMARINE****HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 20, 2013*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that former Virginia Senator and Secretary of the Navy John Warner was honored last Saturday at a keel laying ceremony

at Newport News Shipbuilding, a subsidiary of Huntington Ingalls Industries. This is a special occasion for the Navy and the Commonwealth of Virginia as the *John Warner* SSN 785, a 377-foot nuclear-powered submarine, is the first *Virginia*-class fast attack submarine to be named after a person. The submarine's apt namesake shows John Warner's dedication to the service of our country. Construction of the 12th *Virginia*-class submarine began in 2009 and it is scheduled to be delivered to the Navy in 2015. I am pleased to have served with John Warner in Congress and submit a Daily Press accounting of the ceremony.

[From the Daily Press, Mar. 17, 2013]

**SHIPYARD LAYS KEEL OF THE JOHN WARNER SUBMARINE**

(By Michael Welles Shapiro)

On Saturday the former lawmaker whose fingerprints are all over Newport News Shipbuilding's involvement in the construction of *Virginia*-class nuclear submarines watched as his initials were welded onto a piece of the shipyard's latest boat.

In a rarity in military shipbuilding, the shipyard laid the keel of a fast-attack submarine with its namesake, former senator and Secretary of the Navy John Warner, in attendance.

The boat is the 12th in the *Virginia*-class program and it is scheduled for delivery to the Navy in 2015. The shipyard, a unit of Huntington Ingalls Industries, builds the boats in partnership with General Dynamics Electric Boat in Groton, Conn., a unique arrangement that Warner is credited with helping to start.

Shipyard president Matt Mulherin said naming the latest submarine for Warner is fitting because "he led the efforts to create this teaming agreement between Newport News Shipbuilding and Electric Boat to cooperatively build these submarines."

Navy leaders also spoke glowingly of the joint construction program. Adm. John Richardson, the director of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, said, "the on-time, on-cost, on-quality implementation of this program is well-known."

Warner also received accolades from lawmakers in attendance.

Sen. Mark Warner, who is no relation, said he admired the former senator for being a politician who was willing to set aside politics when push came to shove.

Mark Warner, a Democrat, said that when he was governor, John Warner, a Republican, spoke out in support of a Mark Warner budget bill that had stalled during a partisan tug of war.

"We could use a lot more John Warners in the United States Congress at this point," he said.

John Warner's wife, Jeanne, is the submarine's sponsor.

To close the ceremony the couple chalked their initials on a steel plate before shipyard worker Matthew Shilling welded the letters onto the metal.

Shilling, 27, said after the ceremony that he'd been practicing welding block letters during the week leading up to the keel laying.

But Warner threw the shipbuilder a curve when he wrote his "J" in cursive with a flourish. "I was nervous," Shilling said, saying he's more accustomed to working in a loud construction environment.

Warner also improvised a bit as the ceremony wrapped up.

The Navy and Marine Corps veteran made an unexpected gesture to show that the submarine represents not just him but an entire generation that served in World War II.

He asked the sub's prospective commanding officer, Cmdr. Dan Caldwell, to